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EVENING 53,884

## Democratic Councilman Wins In Westfield's Fourth Ward

WESTFIELD — Democrats scored a major breakthrough in this normally staunch Republican stronghold yesterday when John D. Fife was elected to Town Council from the Fourth Ward.

Political observers said Fife probably is the first Democrat to be elected to council in the history of the town. However, a Democrat held the office of mayor about 42 years ago.

Fife defeated Republican incumbent James Kefalonitis 1,749 to 1,462.

Republicans, nevertheless, won the mayoralty contest and four of five council seats.

Mayor Burr A. Towl Jr., defeated Democrat Roderick S. Cowles by 7,531-4,487.

In the First Ward, Republicans A. Turney Savage and T. William Rodes received tallies of 2,063 and 2,243 to defeat Democrats Thomas M. Marshall and John M. Ward, who drew totals of 909 and 676 respectively. Rodes gains an unexpired term of one year.

Results in the Second Ward were William M. Conner, Republican, 2,164, to 618 for Lawrence Picone.

Herbert R. Welch, Republican, retained his seat in the Third Ward by a margin of only 107 votes over Frank A. Shimonis. Republicans won the ward last year by about 600 votes.

Fife, of 243 Hazel Ave., is a former member of the Central



JOHN D. FIFE  
Fourth Ward Councilman

Intelligence Agency and was with the Department of State. He is assistant sales manager of the polychem division of the Budd Corp., New York City office.

The victorious Democrat credited his victory to a desire by Fourth Ward voters to be represented on Council by an independent voice "not dominated by one party."

Fife cited the town yard controversy and high property taxes as key issues in his campaign.

Rep. Florence P. Dwyer, Republican, outpolled her opponent Lillian Walsh Egolf, 9,414-2,469.

In the key race for state senate, Nelson F. Stamler, Republican, easily outscored H. Roy Wheeler, 8,889-3,148.

Edwin A. Baldwin, Republican, drew 8,321 votes to 3,391 for incumbent Ralph Oriscello, in the race for sheriff.

Republican Freeholders Mary C. Kanane, J. Andrew Stemmer, and Raymond Moore were given tallies of 8,495, 8,490, and 8,372. Democrats Richard J. Barrett, John C. Demos, and Samuel Davidson, received vote totals of 3,280, 3,205, and 3,100.

The sheriff term referendum was defeated 4,332-2,630.

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